

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 29, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 1-28 were pending, and rejected claims 1-28. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-18 and 21-23 have been amended, claims 5, 9-14, 19, 20 and 24-28 have been canceled, new dependent claim 29 has been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-18, 21-23 and 29 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

The Rejection

The Office Action rejects all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over various combinations of Oliver and Nakaoka with Oliver being the primary reference.

Oliver, in particular, the part of noted by the Examiner discusses a PERT Chart. A PERT chart shows a schedule of events or tasks (start dates, completion dates) and their relationship in graphical form. In particular, a PERT chart shows a schedule that has been decided or in a certain sense fixed or that have been previously been determined.

In contrast, as recited in the independent claims, the present invention is concerned with obtaining offered or proposed dates for completing tasks or jobs ("completion date offer indicating a completion date" - claim 1, claim 15, 17, 21 and previously presented claim 22). In particular, the completion date proposals or offers are from those who have been assigned the jobs ("a receiver of a group who has been assigned to the job" - claim 1). These job offers are made by those doing the job based on receiving a message that includes a space for entering the offer ("an entry space for entering a completion date offer" - claims 1, 15, 17, 21 and previously presented claim 22). These offers or proposals for completing the jobs are displayed for a manager to review ("display the completion date offers of the receivers" - claims 1, 15, 17, 21 and 22). In particular, the display is "to display in a table form the title of the message, names of +a plurality of the receivers, the completion dates entered into the entry spaces" - previously presented claim 22. The display also includes "a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers" (see claims 1, 15, 17, 21 and 22). This display of both the offers and the result allows the transmitter of the original message to easily grasp the complete status of the date completion offers associated with the completion date more clearly. Something Oliver cannot provide.

Oliver does not teach or suggest such a system or method particularly one where the decision result and offers are displayed together. And, in a certain sense, the present invention

could be used to gather the information that is put into the PERT chart of Oliver.

It is submitted that the invention of the claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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